

Carolina has a great deal to offer including friendly people, a hardworking and highly skilled workforce, excellent institutions of higher education, and a beautiful landscape.

I wish Smiths Aerospace great success in all its future endeavors.

IN OPPOSITION TO THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET RECONCILIATION

(Mr. GRIJALVA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Republican budget reconciliation. I believe this process has nothing to do with reconciliation. Instead, we have an ideological devastation of the future of families, children, students, the poor, and the elderly in this country.

It would look at these cuts: education, \$14 billion; nutrition, \$844 million in food stamp cuts; Medicaid, \$10 billion; veterans, not addressing the real needs of veterans in this country; foster care, \$577 million; SSI and TANF, \$8 billion; child support, \$5 billion.

These cuts that are being asked for by the Republicans in the reconciliation are a direct result of their policies, policies that are giving tax breaks to corporations, tax cuts to the very wealthy, a \$1-billion-a-day war, and a borrow-and-spend fiscal policy that the Republican Party has instituted.

The backbone of this Nation is its families. The door of opportunity has to remain open for all families. There is always room at the inn.

I urge a "no" vote on the reconciliation.

THE NINTH CIRCUIT COURT RULING ON PARENTING

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, like millions of parents across the country, we were shocked last week by the ruling of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. This ruling denies parents their right to have a say in the content their children are taught in school. In its decision, the Ninth Circuit said, "We hold that parents have no due process or privacy right to override the determinations of public schools as to the information to which their children will be exposed while enrolled as students."

Mr. Speaker, parents, not schools and certainly not the courts, hold the primary responsibility for educating their children, especially when it comes to more sensitive subject matters like sexual, moral, or religious instruction. But the Ninth Circuit, the same court that ruled the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance to be unconstitutional, would strip parents of this fundamental role in their own children's lives.

Last week we addressed an errant court ruling on eminent domain and private property rights. Should this ruling stand, we will need to correct this wayward court yet again.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET RECONCILIATION WILL NEGLECT THE POOR TO HELP THE PRIVILEGED FEW

(Mr. MENENDEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, this week House Republicans will once again demonstrate why the American people no longer have confidence in them to lead this Nation.

At a time when college tuition is skyrocketing, House Republicans propose to cut over \$14 billion in student loan funding, increasing the cost for college for American families by \$5,800.

At a time that the number of families with no health insurance is growing, House Republicans propose slashing Medicaid by \$12 billion, forcing our Nation's most vulnerable to either pay more themselves or lose the health services they need.

At a time that the majority talks about values, House Republicans propose decimating Federal funding for child support enforcement, allowing deadbeat parents to avoid their responsibility.

And at a time when our national debt sets daily records, House Republicans propose to actually increase the deficit by more than \$100 billion, using these cuts to ensure tax cuts for the wealthiest.

That is what a Republican majority means for our country. Together, America can indeed do better.

THREATS POSED BY IRAN

(Mr. MCHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address Iran's growing threat to our allies in the Middle East and to America's national interests.

The Iranian president recently said Israel should be "wiped off the map." This malicious language must not be ignored, especially considering Iran's long-standing support for terrorist groups like Hezbollah, and its unlawful nuclear ambitions.

Terrorist groups supported by Iran are operating today in Gaza, the West Bank, and Iraq, undermining the region's quest for democracy and threatening the lives of innocent civilians.

Iran's radical government seeks to develop nuclear weapons. If Iran gains nuclear capabilities, millions of innocent Israelis, as well as our allies in the Middle East, will be jeopardized and our hopes for Middle East peace will be lost.

Mr. Speaker, we must not abandon Israel, leaving them to stand alone against this imminent threat. The

United States must lead, with our allies, in eliminating Iran's support for terrorist groups and requiring Iran to fulfill nuclear nonproliferation agreements.

THE REPUBLICANS' PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I want to quote an article that appeared last Friday in the Chicago Sun-Times by religion writer Kathleen Falsani under the headline "Bush Administration's Moral Compass Is Lost."

She wrote, "... this week, as Republican leaders try to force a monstrous \$50 billion budget cut designed allegedly to offset the mounting costs ... of hurricane-related aid through Congress, it is clear that the Bush administration's moral compass ... has been lost. The proposed budget cuts, part of the so-called 'budget reconciliation,' would have devastating effects on the poorest, most vulnerable Americans, while allowing tax relief for the rich."

She goes on to say, "Maybe Republican leaders should consider proposing an open season on the homeless or the resurrection of debtors' prisons while they're at it. Is this the kind of leadership the majority of voters that, according to the pollsters at the time, cast their ballots in 2004 based on 'moral values' had in mind? Is this what faith-based 'compassionate conservatism' looks like? Is our Nation more moral, more secure, or spiritually healthier than it was a year ago? And to address my fellow Christian voters," she said, "has the Good News been advanced in any way? No, absolutely not."

America can do better.

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AMERICA'S ECONOMY GROWING

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, it was reported that U.S. productivity grew at the fastest clip in more than a year, signaling a steady growth of the economy. Non-farm business productivity surged at a 4.1 percent annual rate. The increase exceeded economists' expectations and was almost twice that of the prior quarter.

This has caused a gauge of inflationary pressure to drop. When productivity rises smartly, employers can raise and boost wages without fueling inflation. Increasing productivity helps us compete with China so that we can export more to China.

I believe this success is due to the tax cuts enacted by President Bush. The Bush policies have caused the